

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 5, 2003 (Paper No. 29). Claims 1 to 21 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 7, 12 and 18, all of which are independent, have been amended. Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 3, 6, 12 to 15, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,594,672 (Hicks) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,438,359 (Aoki); and Claims 4, 5, 7 to 11, 16, 17, 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Hicks in view of Aoki and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,821,924 (Kikinis).

Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention is directed to a peripheral apparatus (such as a camera) which is connectable to a computer apparatus through a signal line (or transmitting means). A discrimination circuit (or detection means) detects the voltage level of the signal line. According to one feature of the invention, power supply to the peripheral apparatus can be controlled by the computer apparatus based on detection means which is electronically energized by the computer apparatus via the signal line.

By virtue of the foregoing, in which the detection means is electronically energized via the signal line, power supply to the peripheral apparatus can be controlled even when the power switch of the peripheral apparatus is off.

Referring specifically to the claims, Independent Claim 1 as amended is directed to a peripheral apparatus which has a power switch and which can be connected to a computer apparatus. The peripheral apparatus includes detecting means for detecting a voltage level of a signal line connected to a personal computer, wherein the detecting

means is electrically energized via the signal line. The peripheral apparatus also includes power supply control means for controlling a supply of an electric power from a power source to a predetermined circuit for a predetermined period even when the power switch is off, in accordance with an output of the detecting means. In addition, the peripheral apparatus includes discriminating means for discriminating whether or not a communication request of a predetermined procedure has been received from the personal computer after the electric power of the power source was supplied to the predetermined circuit by the power supply control means, and control means for continuing the supply of the electric power from the power source once the discriminating means discriminates a presence of the communication request.

Independent Claim 7 as amended is directed to a camera which has a power switch and which can be connected to a computer apparatus. The camera includes recording means for recording a photographed image, and detecting means for detecting a level of a data line which is connected to a personal computer, wherein the detecting means is electrically energized via the data line. The camera also includes discriminating means for judging whether or not an input signal is a predetermined first command from the personal computer, and image output means for outputting image data recorded by the recording means to the personal computer. In addition, the camera includes control means for starting a supply of an electric power to the recording means and the image output means for a predetermined period even when the power switch is off according to a detection result of the detecting means, and then controlling the supply of the electric power according to a discrimination result of the discriminating means so as to continue the supply of the electric power once a predetermined second command is discriminated by

the discriminating means, after the first command is discriminated and to stop in the case where the predetermined second command is not discriminated by the discriminating means after the first command is discriminated.

Independent Claim 12 as amended is directed to a peripheral apparatus which has a power switch and which can be connected to a control apparatus via signal transmitting means comprising. The peripheral apparatus includes discriminating means for discriminating whether or not a predetermined first signal is received from the control apparatus, wherein the discriminating means is electrically energized via the signal transmitting means. The peripheral apparatus also includes control means for starting supply of an electric power from a power source to a predetermined circuit for a predetermined period once the discriminating means discriminates a presence of the predetermined first signal even when the power switch is off, and then for continuing supply of the electric power from the power source if a predetermined second signal is received from the control apparatus after receiving the predetermined first signal.

Independent Claim 18 as amended is directed to a peripheral apparatus which has a power switch and which can be connected to a control apparatus via signal transmitting line comprising. The peripheral apparatus includes discriminating circuit for discriminating whether or not a predetermined first signal is received from the control apparatus, wherein the discriminating circuit is electrically energized via the signal transmitting line. The peripheral apparatus also includes a control circuit for starting supply of an electric power from a power source to a predetermined circuit for a predetermined period once the discriminating circuit discriminates a presence of the predetermined first signal even when the power switch is off, and then for continuing

supply of the electric power from the power source if a predetermined second signal is received from the control apparatus after receiving the predetermined first signal.

The applied Hicks, Aoki and Kikinis patents are not understood to disclose at least the feature of control over supply of power from a power source to a predetermined circuit for a predetermined period even when the power switch is off, with such control being affected based on a discrimination or detector which is electrically energized via the connection to the control apparatus.

As understood by Applicant, Hicks teaches a peripheral power saver 17 whose electric power is supplied through a power source cord 4. With this power supply, the power saver controls supply of electric power of a peripheral apparatus 2 according to data transmission from a computer 1. See column 3, lines 1-7. However, Hicks is silent as to controlling the supply of electric power from the power source to the predetermined circuit for a predetermined period even when the power switch is off. As a consequence, Hicks could not possibly describe control that is based on a discrimination or detector which is electrically energized via the connection to the control apparatus.

Aoki discloses that an electronic camera 1 has a battery 16 and a power circuit 119. The power circuit 119 can be supplied power from the battery 16, or the power source of a personal computer 2. The power circuit 119 is supplied with power from the battery 16 when the camera 1 is not connected to the personal computer 2. When the camera 1 is connected to the personal computer 2, the power supply to the power circuit 119 from the battery 16 is automatically switched to the power supply from the power source 25 of the personal computer. See column 4, lines 14-20. Although Aoki provides for switching the power supply from the battery to the power source of the computer, Aoki

fails to disclose or suggest the feature of controlling the supply of electric power from the power source to the predetermined circuit for a predetermined period even when the power switch is off, with such control being affected based on a discrimination or detector which is electrically energized via the signal line to the control apparatus.

Kikinis is seen to disclose a monitor 547 with a switch 553. A sync detect circuit 551 monitors a SYNC signal on VGA cable 127. Loss of the monitored SYNC signal causes sync detect circuit 551 to change the voltage on a power-control line 561, which in turn causes switch 553 to open and the monitor 547 to shut down. Resumption of SYNC signals in VGA cable 127 causes sync detect circuit 551 to change power-control line 61 to a quiescent state, thus causing electronically-controlled switch 553 to close and restoring power to monitor 547. See column 6, lines 12-34. Although Kikinis discloses detecting a signal to control the ON and OFF states of a switch for powering a monitor, Kikinis fails to disclose or suggest the feature of controlling the supply of electric power from the power source to a predetermined circuit for a predetermined period of time, with such control being affected based on a discrimination or detector which is electrically energized via the signal line to the control apparatus.

Accordingly, based on the foregoing remarks, independent Claims 1, 7, 12 and 18 are believed to be allowable over the applied references. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejections of Claims 1, 7, 12 and 18 are respectfully requested.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the

invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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